

IN THE CLAIMS

Please AMEND the claims as follows. This listing of the claims replaces all previous listing of the claims.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for the treatment or alleviation of depression or other affective disorders, the method consisting essentially of: comprising administering a pharmaceutical composition comprising an amount of an anti-inflammatory agent effective to treat or alleviate depression or other affective disorder to a subject in need thereof;

wherein said anti-inflammatory agent comprises a compound selected from the group consisting of a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID), a disease modifying antirheumatic drug (DMRAD), a statin and a macrolide antibiotic.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said anti-inflammatory agent down-regulates peripheral cytokine levels to thereby treat or alleviate depression or other affective disorder.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein said anti-inflammatory agent acts peripherally to modulate the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis to thereby treat or alleviate depression or other affective disorder.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein said NSAID is selected from the group consisting of salicylates, arylpropionic acids, anthranilic acids, pyrazoles, cyclic acetic acids oxicams and selective Cox2 inhibitors.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 in which said NSAID is selected from a group consisting of R-ketoprofen, R-flurbiprofen, R-naproxen, R-tiaprofenic, R-etodolac, R-ketorolac, R-suprofen, R-carprofen, R-pirprofen, R-indoprofen, R-benoxaprofen, R-ibuprofen.

Claims 8-9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said anti-inflammatory agent comprises an agent selected from the group consisting of sulindac, diclofenac, tenoxicam, ketorolac, naproxen, nabumetone, diflunisal, ketoprofen, arlypropionic acids, tenidap, hydroxychloroquine, sulfasalazine, celecoxib, rofecoxib, meloxicam, etoricoxib, valdecoxib, methotrexate, etanercept, infliximab, adalimumab, or atorvastatin, fluvastatin, lovastatin, pravastatin, simvastatin, clarithromycin, azithromycin, roxithromycin, erythromycin, ibuprofen, dexibuprofen, flurbiprofen, fenoprofen, fenbufen, benoxaprofen, dexketoprofen, tolfenamic acid, nimesulide and oxaprozin.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said pharmaceutical composition further comprises an antidepressant agent ~~comprises an agent~~ selected from the group consisting of imipramine, amitriptyline, desipramine, chloroimipramine, dibenzepin, doxepin, dosulepin, maprotilene, nortriptylene, mianserin, trimipramine, trazadone, nefazadone, mirtazapine, reboxetine, tranlycypromine, moclobemide, brofaramine, paroxetine, fluoxetine, sertraline, fluvoxamine, citalopram, escitalopram, venlafaxine, duloxetine, buspirone, flibanserin, bupropion and modafinil.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said depression is selected from the group consisting of major depressive disorder, dysthymic disorder, bipolar I disorder, bipolar II disorder, cyclothymic disorder and drug-induced depression.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said subject in need is refractory to antidepressant agents, suffering from melancholic depression or both.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said subject in need has a pre-existing cardiac or vascular disease.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein said cardiac or vascular disease is selected from the group consisting of coronary artery disease, angina, and hypertension.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said anti-inflammatory agent down-regulates peripheral serum levels of a pro-inflammatory molecule or up-regulates peripheral serum levels of an anti-inflammatory molecule or both.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein said pro-inflammatory molecule is

selected from the group consisting of interleukin-1, interleukin-6, interferon-gamma, TFN-alpha, and an activator of the interleukin-6 receptor.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein said anti-inflammatory molecule is interleukin-10.

19. (Currently Amended) A method for potentiating the action of an antidepressant agent in a subject suffering from depression or other affective disorder, the method consisting essentially of: comprising

administering an effective amount of a combination of agents to a subject in need thereof, wherein said combination comprises an effective amount an antidepressant agent and an amount of an anti-inflammatory agent effective to treat or alleviate depression or other affective disorder;

wherein said anti-inflammatory is selected from the group consisting of a NSAID, a DMARD, a statin and a macrolide antibiotic.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein said antidepressant agent and said anti-inflammatory agent are formulated into a single pharmaceutical product.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19 in which the antidepressant agent employed is fluoxetine, whereby administration of said antidepressant agent inhibits the metabolism of the anti-inflammatory drug.

23. (Currently Amended) A method for the treatment or prevention of drug induced depression in a subject suffering therefrom, the method consisting essentially of: comprising administering a pharmaceutical composition comprising an amount of an anti-inflammatory agent effective to treat or alleviate drug induced depression to a subject in need thereof;

wherein said anti-inflammatory is selected from the group consisting of a NSAID, a DMARD, a statin and a macrolide antibiotic.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein said drug-induced depression is induced by treatment with interferons or interleukins.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein said interferons are selected from the group consisting of interferon-1a and interferon 1-b.

26. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein a combination of agents is used comprising an effective dose of an antidepressant agent and an amount of an anti-inflammatory effective in the treatment or alleviation of depression or other affective disorder.

27. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 26, wherein said antidepressant is selected from the group consisting of interferon alpha and interferon beta.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Original) The method of claim 26 wherein said antidepressant and said anti-inflammatory are formulated into a single pharmaceutical composition.

Claims 30-35. (Canceled)